

Chignik Management Area Salmon Escapement Sampling Operational Plan, 2013

by

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April 2013

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



Symbols and Abbreviations

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Weights and measures (metric)		General		Mathematics, statistics			
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative Code	AAC	all standard mathematical signs, symbols and abbreviations			
deciliter	dL	all commonly accepted abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	alternate hypothesis	H _A		
gram	g	all commonly accepted professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>		
hectare	ha			catch per unit effort	CPUE		
kilogram	kg			coefficient of variation	CV		
kilometer	km	at	@	common test statistics	(F, t, χ^2 , etc.)		
liter	L			confidence interval	CI		
meter	m			compass directions:	correlation coefficient		
milliliter	mL	east	E	(multiple)	R		
millimeter	mm	north	N	correlation coefficient			
Weights and measures (English)		south	S	(simple)	r		
	cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s	west	W	covariance	cov	
	foot	ft	copyright	©	degree (angular)	°	
	gallon	gal	corporate suffixes:		degrees of freedom	df	
	inch	in	Company	Co.	expected value	<i>E</i>	
	mile	mi	Corporation	Corp.	greater than	>	
	nautical mile	nmi	Incorporated	Inc.	greater than or equal to	≥	
	ounce	oz	Limited	Ltd.	harvest per unit effort	HPUE	
	pound	lb	District of Columbia	D.C.	less than	<	
	quart	qt	et alii (and others)	et al.	less than or equal to	≤	
	yard	yd	et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	logarithm (natural)	ln	
	Time and temperature		exempli gratia		logarithm (base 10)	log	
		day	d	(for example)	e.g.	logarithm (specify base)	log ₂ etc.
		degrees Celsius	°C	Federal Information		minute (angular)	'
		degrees Fahrenheit	°F	Code	FIC	not significant	NS
degrees kelvin		K	id est (that is)	i.e.	null hypothesis	H ₀	
hour		h	latitude or longitude	lat. or long.	percent	%	
minute		min	monetary symbols		probability	P	
second		s	(U.S.)	\$, ¢	probability of a type I error		
Physics and chemistry			months (tables and figures): first three		(rejection of the null hypothesis when true)	α	
		all atomic symbols		letters	Jan,...,Dec	probability of a type II error	
		alternating current	AC	registered trademark	®	(acceptance of the null hypothesis when false)	β
		ampere	A	trademark	™	second (angular)	"
		calorie	cal	United States		standard deviation	SD
		direct current	DC	(adjective)	U.S.	standard error	SE
		hertz	Hz	United States of America (noun)	USA	variance	
	horsepower	hp	U.S.C.	United States Code	population sample	Var var	
	hydrogen ion activity (negative log of)	pH					
	parts per million	ppm	U.S. state	use two-letter abbreviations			
	parts per thousand	ppt, ‰		(e.g., AK, WA)			
	volts	V					
	watts	W					

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ABSTRACT

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game samples sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka* at the Chignik River weir for age, length, and sex determination to provide information for preseason run forecasts, escapement goal evaluation, and run reconstruction. Every week throughout the season, 240 sockeye salmon are sampled. Sockeye salmon scales are collected using established protocols common to the Westward Region. This report summarizes the specific procedures for the sockeye salmon escapement sampling program.

Key words: Chignik Management Area, escapement, sockeye salmon, scale samples, ASL, 2013 management

INTRODUCTION

The Chignik Management Area (CMA; Area L) includes all coastal waters and inland drainages on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula between Kilokak Rocks and Kupreanof Point (Figure 1). The CMA is bordered by the Alaska Peninsula Management Area (Area M) to the west and the Kodiak Management Area (Area K) to the east. The CMA is divided into five districts: the Eastern, Central, Chignik Bay, Western, and Perryville districts (Figure 2). These districts are further broken down into sections and statistical reporting areas (Figure 2). The Chignik River system is the largest sockeye salmon *Oncorhynchus nerka* producer within the CMA. The Chignik weir and field office facility is located three miles upriver from the Chignik Lagoon.

Annually, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) samples sockeye salmon from the Chignik River escapement for biological characteristics (age, sex, and length; ASL). These samples provide the foundation for preseason run forecasts, escapement goal evaluation, and accurate assignment of the run to stock of origin (run reconstruction). Therefore, it is important that all data are collected following established protocols.

GOAL

The goal of this project is to provide ASL composition data from the Chignik River sockeye salmon escapement to assist with commercial fishery management.

OBJECTIVES

1. Collect a random sample of 240 sockeye salmon per statistical week for ASL data at the Chignik weir.
2. Collect a random sample of 1,200 sockeye salmon from the outlet of Black Lake for ASL data.

SUPERVISION

Finfish research biologist Michelle Moore is the Westward Region scale sampling project leader and will supervise inseason progress. Charles Russell, the Assistant Chignik Area Management Biologist, will serve as the project biologist. The project biologist will schedule and monitor Chignik weir and Black Lake sampling, review all data for quality, quantity, and timeliness, determine the age of all sockeye salmon scales, and provide feedback to the sampling crew regarding data quality. A logbook will be maintained by the project biologist tracking weekly samples.

PROCEDURES

SOCKEYE SALMON

Escapement Sampling

A fish trap incorporated into the Chignik River weir will be used to capture fish for ASL sampling. Sockeye salmon will be randomly sampled from the trap for ASL data using methods described in Appendices A1 through A7. When possible, all scales will be collected from the preferred area of each fish following procedures outlined by the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (INPFC) (INPFC 1963). It is essential that samples be representative of the escapement and unbiased by not pre-selecting fish based upon size, sex, condition or any other factor.

During 2013, the sampling weeks start on Friday and end the following Thursday. When possible, 80 sockeye salmon will be sampled for ASL data per sampling event on alternating days (e.g., Friday, Sunday, Tuesday), totaling 240 ASL samples per statistical week (Thompson 1987). Sampling weeks and corresponding calendar dates are listed in Appendix A4. These data will be clearly marked as “Chignik weir escapement samples” (location code 071; Appendix A3).

If escapement numbers decline and there is concern that the minimum sample size will not be achieved, adjustments in sampling efforts should be implemented so that the weekly goal of 240 is met. The camera gates installed in the Chignik River weir may be closed during the operation of the fish trap to increase the number of fish captured in the weir’s fish trap. When the trap catch at the Chignik River weir is not adequate to fulfill ASL sampling needs, additional samples may be collected from the Chignik Lagoon commercial harvest (statistical area 271-10). These data will be clearly marked as Chignik commercial catch samples (location code 072; Appendix A3).

Black Lake Sampling

Adult sockeye salmon will be sampled, beginning June 20, at the outlet of Black Lake. These samples provide a representation of the ASL composition of the early run. Sampling effort and coordination will be led by the project biologist with support from Chignik management staff. If possible, 1,200 sockeye salmon will be sampled over several days with a goal of at least 400 fish each sampling day. The fish will be collected using a beach seine, and held in an instream live box prior to sampling. The adipose fin will be clipped on all sampled fish to prevent repeat sampling. Fish will be sampled using methods outlined in Appendices A1 through A7. These samples will be clearly marked as “Black Lake escapement samples” (location code 070; Appendix A3).

SAMPLE PROCESSING

Scales will be mounted on scale “gum” cards and impressions made on acetate/diacetate cards using a heat press. The Assistant Chignik Area Management Biologist will assign sockeye salmon ages by examining scale impressions for annual growth increments using a microfiche reader fitted with a 48X lens following designation criteria established by Mosher (1968). Ages will be recorded on sampling forms using European notation (Koo 1962) where a decimal separates the number of winters spent in fresh water (after emergence) from the number of winters spent in salt water. All data will be recorded on a Meazura MEZ1000 Rugged Digital Assistant as outlined in Appendix A1. All sockeye salmon scales, scale cards, and digital files

will be delivered to finfish research biologist Michelle Moore in Kodiak for analysis and archiving. Data collected as part of this project will be reported in ADF&G reports in the fall of 2013.

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FIGURES

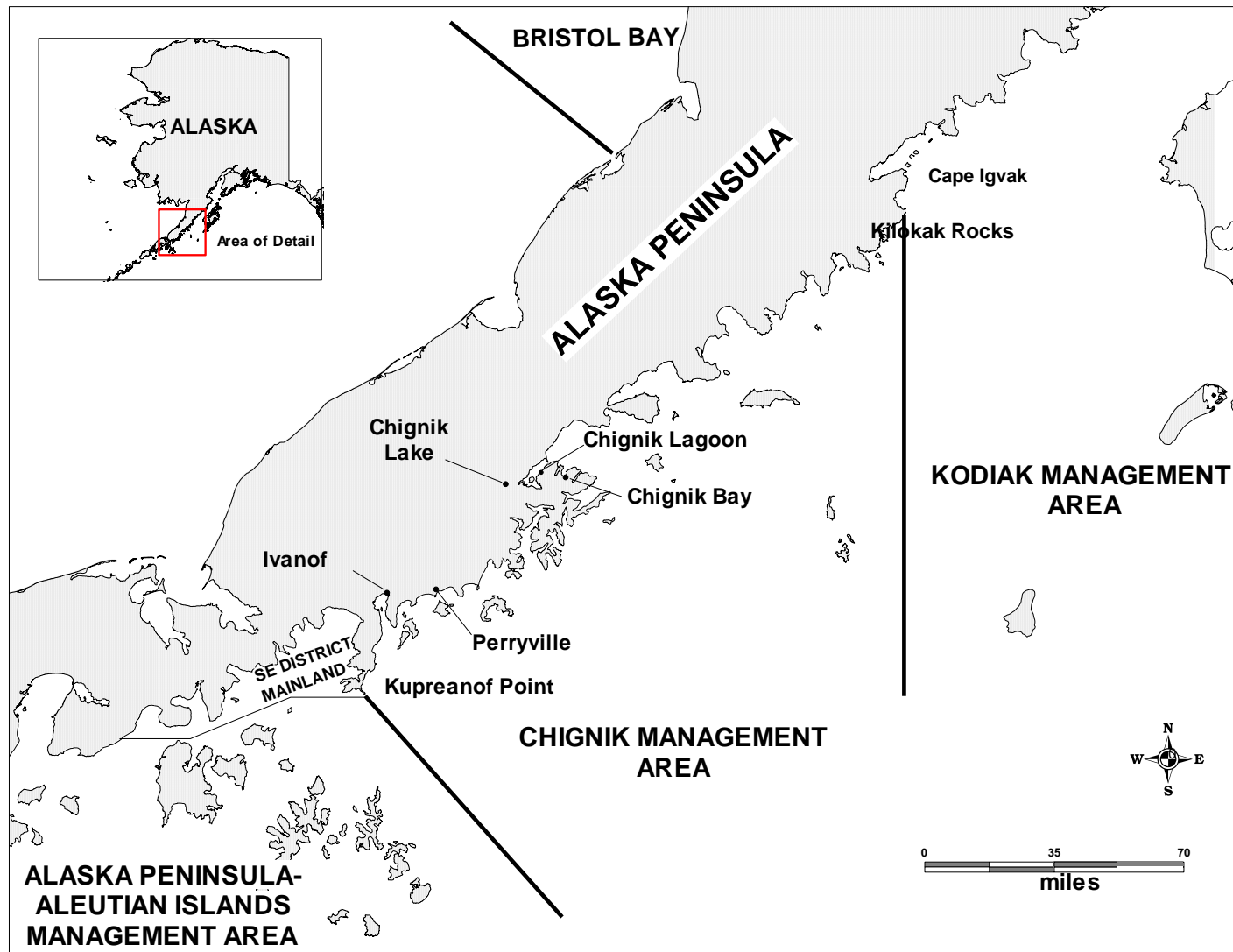


Figure 1.—Map of the Alaska Peninsula illustrating the relative locations of the Chignik, Kodiak, and Alaska Peninsula Management Areas.

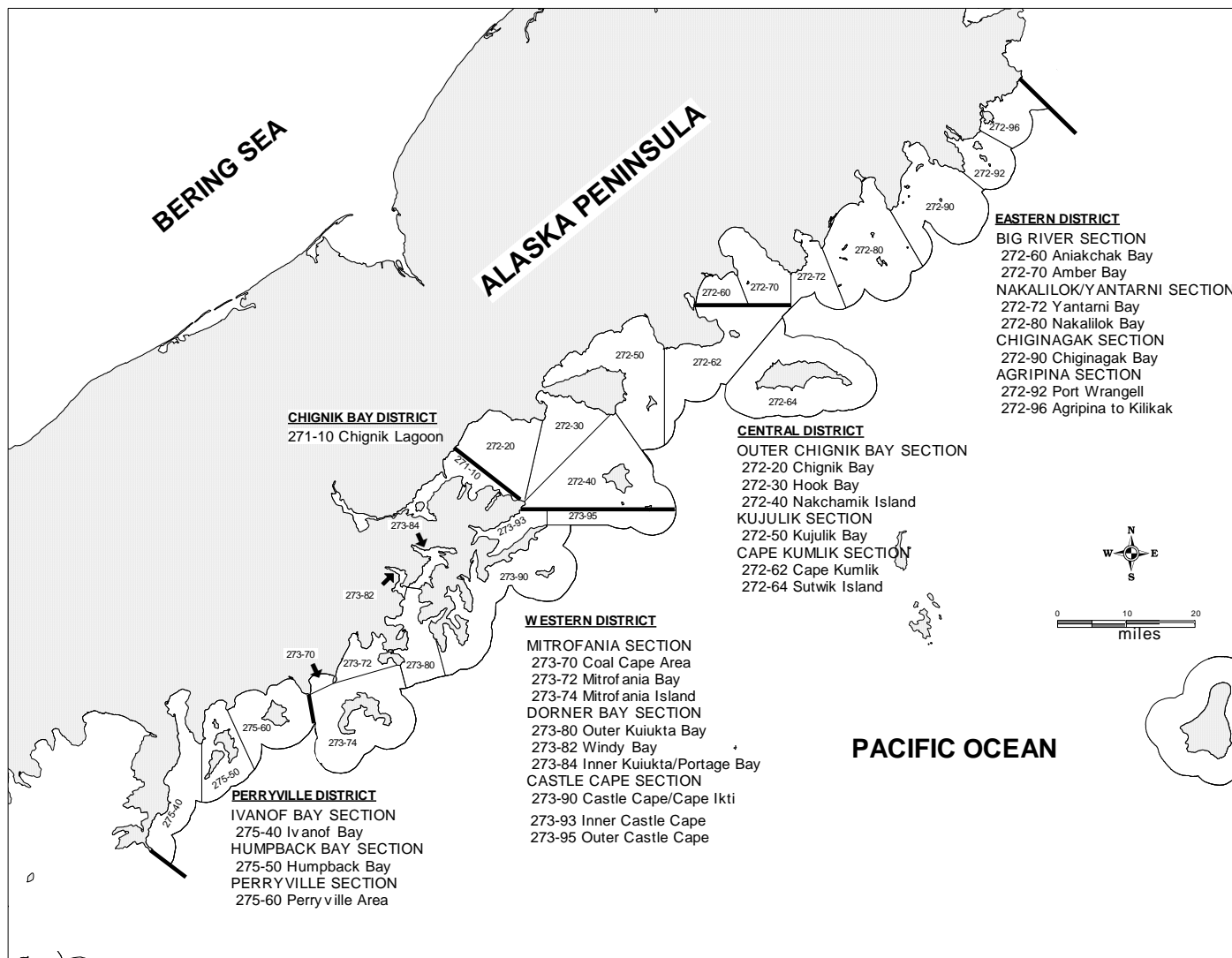


Figure 2.—Map of the Chignik Management Area illustrating commercial salmon fishing district boundaries and statistical areas.

APPENDIX A. ADULT SALMON SAMPLING

Appendix A1.–Statistical (sampling) weeks and associated calendar dates.

Week	Calendar Dates	Week	Calendar Dates
10	1-Mar – 7-Mar	28	5-Jul – 11-Jul
11	8-Mar – 14-Mar	29	12-Jul – 18-Jul
12	15-Mar – 21-Mar	30	19-Jul – 25-Jul
13	22-Mar – 28-Mar	31	26-Jul – 1-Aug
14	29-Mar – 4-Apr	32	2-Aug – 8-Aug
15	5-Apr – 11-Apr	33	9-Aug – 15-Aug
16	12-Apr – 18-Apr	34	16-Aug – 22-Aug
17	19-Apr – 25-Apr	35	23-Aug – 29-Aug
18	26-Apr – 2-May	36	30-Aug – 5-Sep
19	3-May – 9-May	37	6-Sep – 12-Sep
20	10-May – 16-May	38	13-Sep – 19-Sep
21	17-May – 23-May	39	20-Sep – 26-Sep
22	24-May – 30-May	40	27-Sep – 3-Oct
23	31-May – 6-Jun	41	4-Oct – 10-Oct
24	7-Jun – 13-Jun	42	11-Oct – 17-Oct
25	14-Jun – 20-Jun	43	18-Oct – 24-Oct
26	21-Jun – 27-Jun	44	25-Oct – 31-Oct
27	28-Jun – 4-Jul	45	1-Nov – 7-Nov

SAMPLING PROCEDURES

Place the salmon flat on its right side (the head should be toward the left).

Measure the length (in mm)

Adult salmon length is measured from mid-eye to tail fork because the shape of the salmon's snout changes as it approaches sexual maturity. Slide the fish in place so that the middle of the eye is in line with the edge of the meter stick and hold the head in place with your left hand. Flatten and spread the tail against the board with your right hand. Read and record the mid-eye to tail fork length to the nearest millimeter. Please look at Figure 1.

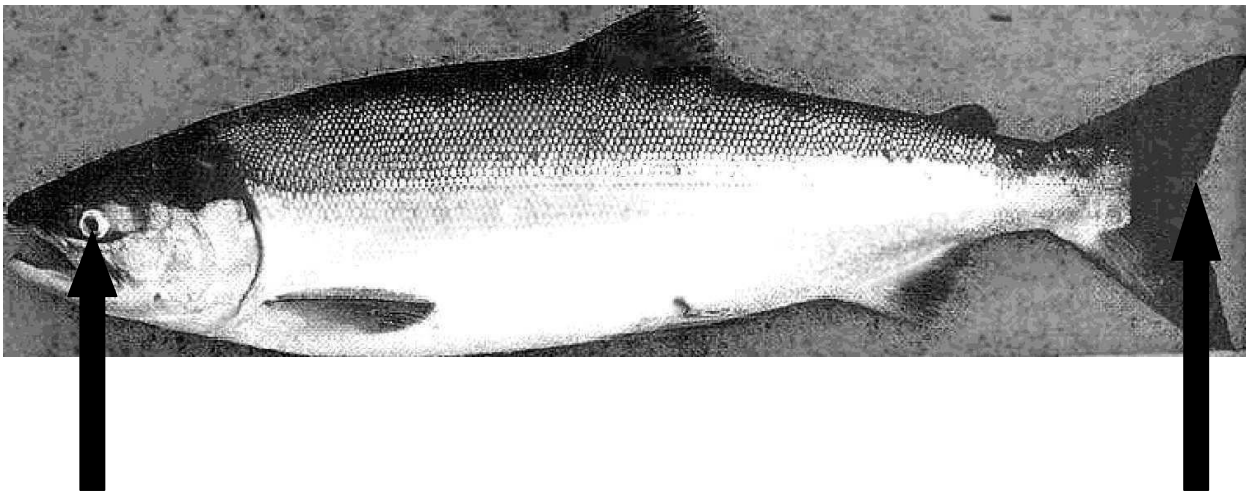


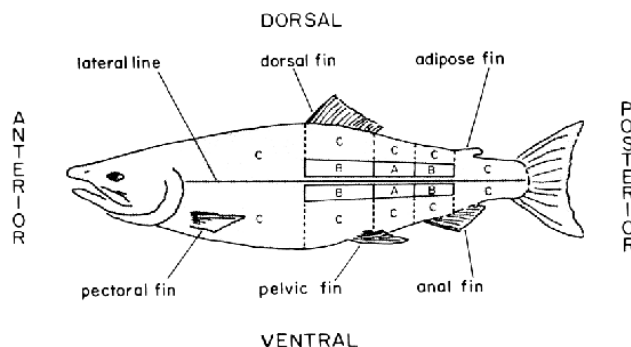
Figure 1.–Measuring fish length from mid-eye to tail fork.

Determine the sex of the fish (escapement sampling only).

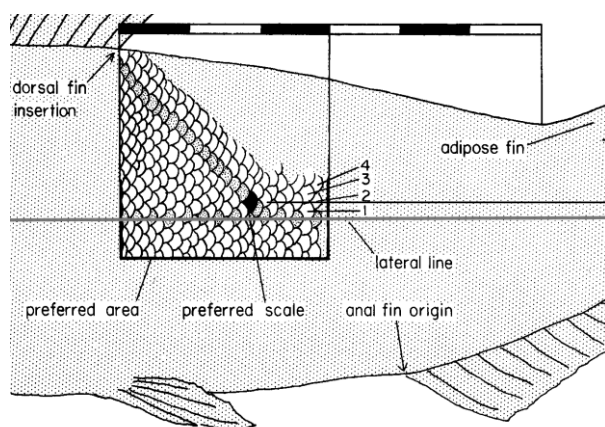
Remove the preferred scale and place on scale card

The preferred scale should be properly placed on a labeled scale (gum) card (Figures 2 and 3). Scale cards should be labeled as soon as possible. If sampling commercial catch, write the date the fish were caught on the card instead of the sampling date. The preferred scale is located 2 rows up from the lateral line, on a diagonal from the insertion (posterior) of the dorsal fin toward the origin of the anal fin (Figure 2). Samplers should be careful to make sure that the scale is not flipped over before it is placed on the scale card.

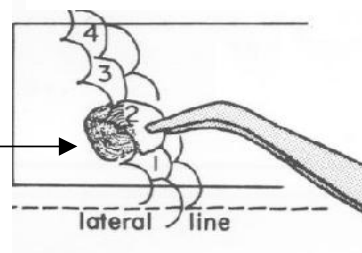
-continued-



Area A is the preferred area. If scales on the left side are missing, try the right side. Area B is the second choice if there are no scales in Area A on either side of the fish. Area C designates non-preferred areas.



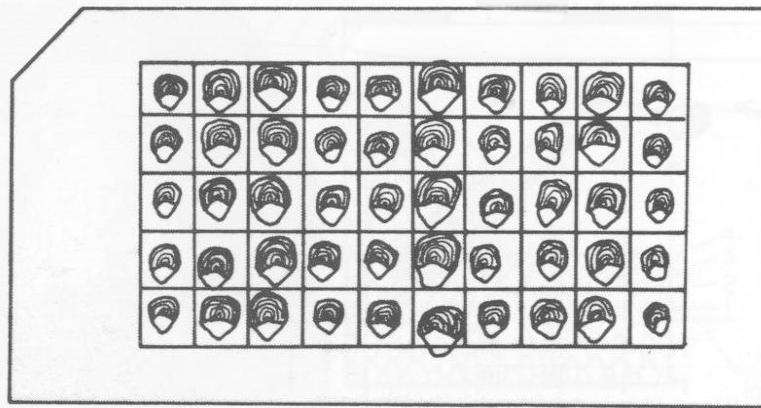
Do not turn scale over.



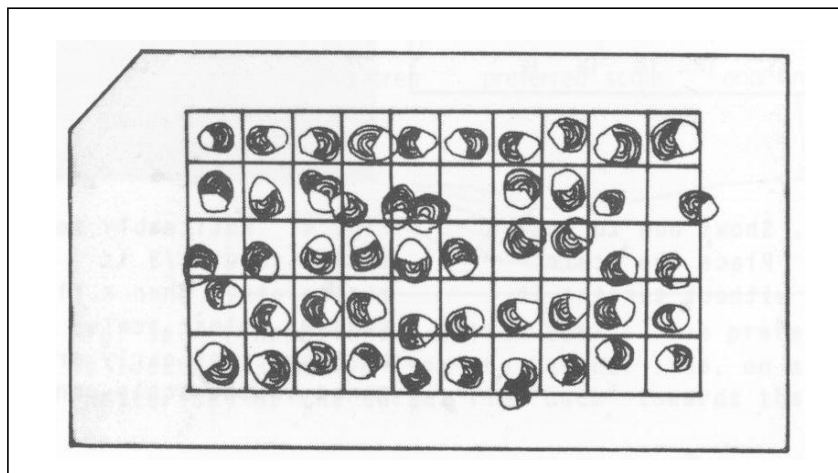
The preferred scale in this diagram is solid black. It is located 2 rows up from the lateral line, on a diagonal from the insertion (posterior) of the dorsal fin “back” toward the origin of the anal fin.

Figure 2.–Removal and placement of the preferred salmon scale onto the scale card.

-continued-



The scales are correctly oriented on the card in the same direction, with the anterior portion of the scale pointed toward the top of the card and the posterior portion (the portion of the scale held in the forceps) pointed toward the bottom of the card.



The scales are incorrectly oriented in different directions. This increases the time spend to age samples.

Figure 3.–Scale orientation on scale card.

-continued-

DATA ENTRY/MANAGEMENT

Data obtained while sampling is recorded using a Meazura Rugged Digital Assistant (RDA). The RDA is a waterproof device used to digitally record sampling data. Sample information is transferred from the device to a netbook after each sample. A USB flash drive is used to save and transfer data from the netbooks located in field camps, to the office, throughout the season. An RDA is shown in Figure 4.

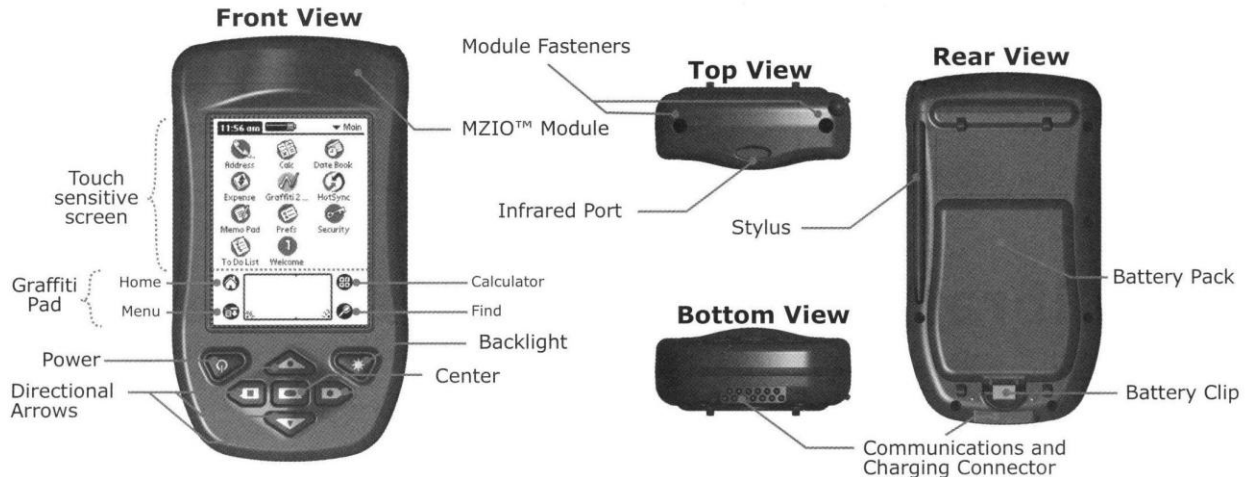





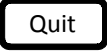
Figure 4.–Rugged Digital Assistant (RDA).

ENTERING DATA INTO THE RDA

To begin using the RDA, turn it on by pressing the power button (Table 1). Using the stylus, tap the home icon in the bottom portion of the screen to bring up the main menu. It may be necessary to press the home icon several times to bring up the entire main menu. Next, tap the Forms 5.1 icon. Pendragon Forms (Forms 5.1) is the program that you will use to enter all of the sample data. After the icon is selected, the Pendragon Forms screen will appear. If a form was left open by a previous user, it may be necessary to hit the Quit or Done button to get to the main list of forms. Highlight the appropriate sampling form (**ASL_2013.XX**) and select New, which is found in the lower left corner of the screen. The four main buttons of the form will now be visible: *Enter Background Info*, *Sample Next Fish*, *Review*, and *Quit*.

-continued-

Table 1.–Buttons and Icons addressed in the text.

Image	Description
	Power Button - Button you will press on the RDA itself
	Home Icon - Use the stylus to navigate to the home screens
 Forms 5.1	Forms 5.1 Icon - Use the stylus to open pendragon forms 5.1
 Quit	This is an example of a button within pendragon forms. Use the stylus to select these buttons.

ENTER BACKGROUND INFO

Background information must be entered at the start of each sampling event. A new day always constitutes a new sampling event, so it will be necessary to enter new background information typically once per sampling day. For most projects, changing the background information each day will consist of updating the date only. It is important to edit background information when any change in sampling information occurs. The following topics constitute sampling information. If information in one of the following categories changes, it is necessary to change the background information.

Species

Select the appropriate species from the drop down list on the RDA, such as Sockeye.

Project

Indicate the pertinent project from the dropdown list. For example, if sampling adult sockeye escapement at a weir, choose Escapement.

Management Area

Choose the relevant management area from the dropdown list. Samples collected from Kodiak Island statistical areas must have Kodiak selected as the proper management area.

Area Sampled

Select the area that best represents where the fish were sampled, such as Ayakulik River, from the dropdown list.

Location Type

Indicate the type of area in which the fish were sampled. For example, if the fish were sampled at the Upper Station weir, choose Weir from the drop down menu.

-continued-

Gear

Select the type of gear in which the fish were caught, such as Trap.

Type of Length Measurement

Designate the type of length measurement taken. Adult salmon lengths are typically measured from mid-eye to tail fork.

Date of Sample



Escapement sampling: Use the date the fish are sampled.

Catch sampling: Use the date the fish were caught, even if this differs from the sample date.

Sampler Initials

Enter the initials of the sampling crew (up to 3 persons). This can be done by writing in the box on the bottom of the screen, or by using the pop up keyboard.

Notes

1. When entering text, tap on the dot by the abc icon to bring up a keyboard. 
2. To delete a character, place the stylus in the text box and draw a small straight line from right to left. 

SAMPLE NEXT FISH:

After entering background information, the RDA is ready to collect individual fish data. The Sample Next Fish button is used to enter the details of each fish sampled. It is not necessary to click on the Sample Next Fish button when entering the first fish of a new sample. After entering the background information, the form automatically knows to go to the sample next fish section of the form. As you continue to sample, simply tap Sample Next Fish or Next to enter individual fish data. This option is used when continuing to the next fish of a sample where no background information has changed. Fish data that is entered here is associated with the current background information logged. The following constitute fish data and should be entered for each fish.

Scale Card Number

Scale (gum) cards are numbered sequentially by date throughout the season starting with 1. A separate numbering sequence will be used for each species or major location change. Consult your crew leader for the current card number. It is crucial to make sure the number written on the scale card matches the scale card number entered into the RDA. The Scale card number will automatically advance to next number after fish number 40 is recorded.

Fish Number

The fish number is the number of the fish on a particular scale card. This must be a number between 1 and 40. By default, the fish number in the RDA will automatically advance after each fish is sampled. It will also automatically go from 40 to 1.

Sex

Select the sex of the fish.

Length in mm

Enter the length of the fish from mid-eye to tail fork in millimeters (i.e., 534). If for some reason you do not collect a length measurement, enter 999.

Fin Clip and Tag Color

Select the Skip Fin Clip and Tag Color button if appropriate. If sampling involves fin clips or tags you can enter the optional fin clip and tag information. Indicate the type of fin clip (e.g., axillary process) or tag color using the drop down menus.

Sample Next Fish

Select Sample Next Fish to continue sampling.

Review

The review button can be a very useful tool during sampling. It can be used to ensure data being entered is accurate, or it can be used for editing fish data during a sample. The review portion of the form displays card number, fish number, sex, and length. The most recently sampled fish appear first. To enter the review screen, tap on the Review button on the main screen of the form. After the data has been reviewed and edited, tap the Done button on the bottom right of the screen to return to the main screen of the form. If Sample Next Fish is selected after leaving the review screen, the auto-increment will continue as if the review screen was never entered.

Reviewing Data

To review the last data entered, tap the Review button on the main screen of the form. Use the scroll bar on the right side of the screen to look at the fish that have been entered.

Editing Data

If fish data needs to be edited, tap on it using the stylus. Tap on the Sample Next Fish button to go through the fish data that was previously entered for that fish. Changes can be made as needed. Buttons chosen prior to the review are highlighted with asterisks. After a fish has been edited, the main review screen appears. If a fish is accidentally selected from the main review screen, click the button that has the Card#-Fish# to return to the main review screen without going through the fish data. As mentioned above, tap Done to exit the review portion of the form and return to the main screen.

Quit

When sampling is complete, tap Quit to exit the form.

DATA MANAGEMENT

After sampling is done for the day, it is required that the data be backed up on the RDA itself, and then transferred (by HotSync) to the netbook.

BACKING UP DATA

After each sample the RDA should be backed up so that data is stored on both of the compact flash drives. Turn the RDA on and tap the home icon in the bottom portion of the screen to bring up the main menu. Tap the CardBkup icon if it is present and then the Backup Now button at the top left of the screen. The data will now be on both flash drives. If the RDA does not have a CardBkup icon, it will back up automatically.

DOWNLOADING DATA TO NETBOOK

Connect the communications cable into the RDA and a USB port on the netbook. Press the power button to turn on the RDA and begin a HotSync by tapping the home icon, and then the HotSync icon found on the main menu. Tapping the large icon in the center of the screen will start the HotSync operation (Figure 5). Please make sure the RDA is dry before downloading any data to the netbook.

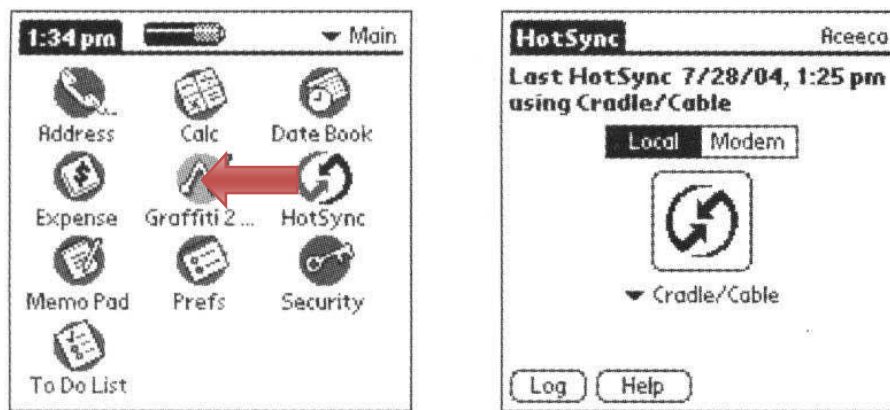


Figure 5.–HotSync Screens Found on RDA

EDITING, NAMING, AND SAVING DATA

If a mistake is realized during a sample it is often easiest to document the mistake and send the correction in with the USB flash drive for the Kodiak office to fix. If a mistake is made during the sample it can be changed using the review portion of the form in the RDA. Data can also be changed after it is downloaded onto the netbook, but is not recommended unless the Kodiak office is consulted first. A HotSync operation after changes have been made on the netbook will update the RDA.

To view data, HotSync the RDA and open Pendragon Forms Manager (a shortcut should be located to the right of the start menu) on the netbook. Select the form (ASL_2013.XX), and click Edit/View under Data Functions on the right side of the window. All data will now be visible. Make the necessary changes here and exit out of the window to save. It is important to correct the numbers under the proper column and consult the Kodiak office. Hotsync the RDA to the netbook after any changes are made on the netbook to update the RDA with all changes.

After data has been edited and verified, a copy of the database will need to be exported from the Pendragon software and saved on the netbook. In Pendragon Forms Manager, under Data Functions on the right side of the window, click To ASCII. Navigate to the folder in which the data is being saved. Type in the file name and then save. The file name should follow this format: Area_Sampled_YYYYMMDD.csv (e.g., Afognak_River_20130614.csv). After saving, a window will pop up stating the file has been created. Each .csv file will contain all of the data that has been collected up to that point in the season. Do not edit or save the .csv file as an Excel file or it will be difficult or impossible to upload the data into the database.

TRANSFERRING DATA FROM NETBOOK ONTO USB FLASH DRIVE

Up to date data should be sent into the main office as often as possible (e.g., with the grocery plane). Insert a USB flash drive into an appropriate port on the netbook. Double click on MyComputer, which is found on the desktop of the netbook. Navigate to the folder where your data is saved and highlight the most recent file (determined by the date) by single clicking. With the file highlighted, click on edit at the top of the window and then copy. Open up MyComputer and double click on the USB flash drive (often called Removable Disk) found under the heading Devices with Removable Storage. Click on edit at the top of the window, and then paste. The .csv file that was copied earlier will appear in the window indicating it was copied to the flash drive. Exit out of all windows and single click on the safely remove hardware button on the bottom right corner of the desktop in the quick start menu. Click on Safely remove USB Mass Storage Device. A pop-up will verify that it is now safe to remove the flash drive from the system.

POWERING THE NETBOOK AND RDA

1. The RDA can be charged with either the AC or DC powering options. It is the crew leaders responsibility to keep it charged
2. The netbook can only be charged with the AC power adaptor, therefore plan accordingly for generator use. The charging light on the netbook is red when charging, and green when fully charged.
3. If there are powering problems, please contact the office immediately.

SOME NOTES AND REMINDERS

1. Connect the AC adaptor to the bottom of the communications cable to charge the RDA batteries. If using the DC charger, connect the charger into the communications port.
2. If a mistake is noticed before moving onto the next fish, the previous button can be used to make changes in the RDA without having to go to the review screen or alter the data on the netbook.
3. Each length, sex, and scale must correspond to a single fish! It is the responsibility of the crew leader to be sure the data has been entered correctly.
4. For greater efficiency in scale reading, mount scales with anterior end toward top of gum card A7.
5. Never put data from different dates onto one gum card, and always enter new background information. Even if only one scale is collected that day, enter new background information and begin a new gum card the next day.
6. Be careful when collecting and mounting scales in wet conditions (rain, high humidity, etc.). If glue dries on top of the scale, it often obscures scale features, resulting in an unreadable scale. In addition, scales frequently adhere poorly to a wet gum card. Protect the cards and keep them dry to avoid having to remount the scales on a new card. If the cards get wet, try to dry them in a protected area or remount if necessary. Use a pencil when filling out gum cards, because ink will come off during pressing.
7. Responsibility for accuracy lies first with the primary data collector(s) and finally with the crew leader. Sloppy or incomplete data or gum cards will be returned to individual collectors for correction.
8. Ensure that all equipment is well kept. Electronics should be stored in a clean safe place. Dry off the RDA with a paper towel after sampling events. The RDA must be dry before transferring data to the netbook. RDA batteries must be charged to make certain sampling is not hampered. It is the responsibility of the crew leader to make sure that all data is carefully examined and edited before returning it to their supervisor.

TROUBLESHOOTING

RESETTING THE RDA

If problems are encountered with the RDA, A soft reset can be done without losing data. To perform a soft reset hold the power and backlight button down together and release at the same time. If a soft reset does not work, the office should be contacted about other options for resetting.



Press and release Power and Backlight button together

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HOTSYNC ERROR MESSAGE

HotSync message includes "Exceeded user storage space limit of 500KB in form 'ASL_###'"

1. Open Pendragon Forms Manager
2. Under Form Function click on "Properties"
3. Click on "Advanced Properties"
4. Click on the "Synchronization Tab"
5. Change the Storage Limit (KB) to 5000 instead of 500.
6. Click "OK"
7. Under Form Functions Click on "Distribute"
8. Hotsync the RDA and the Netbook

Appendix A3.—Completed Scale (gum) Cards.

Species: Sockeye Card No: 001
Locality: Upper Station
Stat. Code: 257 - 30 - 304 -
Sampling Date: Mo. 05 Day 24 Year 2009
Gear: Weir
Collector(s): Leta Meyer / Joe Dinnoxeuzo
Remarks: Fish #8 had an old wound on
both sides in the prepect area. Took
Scale from left side above lateral line on fin
of the dorsal fin.

10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21
40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31